

## The Punta Gorda Herald

A. F. JORDAN, Editor

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FRIDAY, JULY 4, 1902

A good rule to observe now is not to believe anything that you hear nor one-half what you see—unless you see it in THE HERALD.

**Volusia Record:** The democracy over the state seem pretty unanimous for the promotion of Judge Hocker to the supreme bench.

Wonder if Mr. Jones has yet made up our minds for us whom we wait for tax collector. He had better be in a hurry about it; the time is getting short.

It now seems to be conceded that Hocker will be nominated for supreme judge and Croom for comptroller. Both will prove true to the best interests of the state.

**Braidentown Journal:** Col. A. P. Jordan, the brilliant editor of the Punta Gorda Herald, has entered politics by becoming a candidate for member of the County School Board. "Here's hopin'," Colonel.

Mr. William King, who is running for county commissioner from District 5, is sure to win. This district will give him an almost solid vote and he will have a majority in all the other districts. He will make the county an excellent commissioner.

THE HERALD thinks this should be a fair fight with no abuse or vilification of respectable gentlemen. Any man has a right to run for public office and, unless he is a disreputable fellow, he is entitled to a fair chance and he should not be denounced and abused in the newspapers.

We are afraid that some of the polite and accomplished young gentlemen who are now running for office for the first time, will shortly be tempted to agree with Solomon in thinking that all men are liars. Taylor Johns, the restaurant man at Lakeland, once came to that conclusion.

"Uncle" Sol Phillips, who is running for the legislature as a candidate of the common people, proposes to keep it up until the final returns in November come in. Accordingly, he will ignore the Democratic primary of July 15th and his name will not be on the primary ticket. His intention is to lick the man who is nominated on July 15th.

Tallahassee Capital: The Metropolis is of the opinion that "good financiers will be more needed in the next Florida legislature than ever before to unravel satisfactorily the tangled skein of the Indian war claims, etc." What's the matter with John Wall, of Putnam, the "watchdog of the treasury," Albert Gilchrist, of DeSoto, and Bob McNamee, all of whom are likely to be on deck next April? With such men at the helm no state can go far wrong.

THE HERALD pleads guilty to the charge of not saying in plain language what it really thinks about certain men and things, but why should we swear in the presence of ladies? This paper is read by many ladies, respect for whom requires that when a man really ought to be called a liar, he should be designated as one whose utterances abound in such inaccuracies as a strict code of ethics would pronounce reprehensible. There is nothing like politeness even towards foes.

Why do we wish to send a man to the legislature? Just because he is a good fellow and we like him? That policy won't do when important interests are at stake. If we are going to choose any one for representative, we ought to select the man who is best equipped for looking after our interests. A man of education and ability with a degree of self-assertion is indispensable in a contest for interest and right in the legislature; and if he has had some training and experience and is acquainted with his associates and enjoys their respect, he can be invaluable for good. Gen. Gilchrist is such a man.

Florida Baptist Witness: It is believed that Judge W. A. Hocker, candidate for the supreme court judgeship, will get nearly every vote in Marion county. One of the highest compliments a man can receive is to say he has the respect and confidence of all his neighbors. Judge Hocker lived in Marion county for more than ten years and the people there know him to be every inch a man and they are willing to trust him with any office to which they may assist in elevating him. We know of no man better qualified to be a justice of our supreme court than Judge Hocker.

### MR. JONES'S FAVORITES.

It is generally known and understood why Hon. John L. Jones of Arcadia takes such an active interest in county politics. As said before in these columns, he is not to blame for trying to place his particular friends in the various offices, especially if they be good men, as is the case in this contest, and the only criticism that might be fairly indulged upon his conduct is that he has at heart his own interests more than those of the people at large.

Upon this hypothesis it would seem just to conclude that he opposes Gen. Gilchrist not so much because of any unfriendliness that might be alleged against the latter as because of the general declared purpose of trying to secure cheaper and perhaps better abstracts for the people. Mr. Jones's abstracts are simply the certificates of a private gentleman and depend solely upon his personal and business character and capacity. They are without any official character or value and have no better guarantee back of them than the writing of any private individual of Mr. Jones's moral and financial standing.

Gen. Gilchrist wishes the people to have official abstracts prepared by the clerk of the circuit court. This seems reasonable. No private citizen, even though he be such a good one as Mr. Jones is, should have a monopoly of the public records.

Mr. C. M. Johnson, the excellent gentleman from Pine Level, who is opposing Gen. Gilchrist, has not declared himself on this question; but if the report be true that Mr. Jones is energetically supporting him, it is fair to infer that Mr. Jones feels that his abstract business would suffer no jeopardy or interference from the election of Mr. Johnson. If the latter should be elected, Mr. Jones can say that he at least helped and should therefore be treated kindly and considerately by Mr. Johnson.

There is, or should be a great deal of reciprocity in politics, and Mr. Jones understands that as well as any one. He is in for reciprocity and so is THE HERALD, and that's why this discussion is on. The chief difference seems to be that Mr. Jones has trust proclivities and wishes to monopolize things, while THE HERALD is willing to share spoils and honors with other loyal Democrats.

It is all right for a fellow to want everything, but he should be wise enough to conceal the fact. Herein lies Mr. Jones's mistake, and he ought to be grateful to THE HERALD for pointing it out to him. He has somehow let it become generally believed that he wants all the county printing and advertising every year without end. To get this, it is necessary that he compass the selection of county commissioners who feel very kindly disposed towards him. With this object in view he is reported as bestirring himself in behalf of Messrs. Ed F. Bostick, H. A. Ware and S. L. Griffin. Who his favorites are in Districts 2 and 4 is not known; but as Messrs. Langford and Larsen are sure to be elected, it will be wise for him to claim that he did it. The best information is that he is not safe in taking chances on Mr. Bostick, who is said to be opposed to the monopolistic policy of giving everything to Mr. Jones and his newspaper.

The county printing may not be all that Mr. Jones might expect from the county commissioners. The present board has given him office rent cheap in the court house; and if he owns much taxable property, it would do him no harm to stand in with the commissioners when they come to equalizing the tax assessments. They are sometimes very kind about reducing the assessments of a deserving man, especially if he has labored hard for their election.

Fact is, it is a good thing to have your best friends in office. That is why THE HERALD is working for Frank Cooper and Mr. Jones for, well, which one is he for, any way? He has not yet clearly indicated his preference, but it seems that he cannot expect any special favor from either of the candidates for assessor, as both are men who will show no special official favors to any one.

The collectorship, too, seems to attract little or no attention from Mr. Jones, but it is reported that he wants a change in the office of county treasurer. His motive for this is one of those dark and mysterious things which sometimes haunt the bosoms of the most expert schemers, but it is supposed that he thinks that Treasurer Parker does not deposit all the county's money in the Arcadia bank and that Mr. Hendry will do so, if elected. At any rate, he is said to favor Mr. Hendry for treasurer.

In view of this and for the sake of feeling that it is on the people's side, THE HERALD supports Mr. Parker. The most puzzling development of Mr. Jones's political activity is the interest he is said to take in the selection of the county school board. What in the world does he want with the school board? Has some favorite teacher whose salary he wants increased? Surely he does not expect to teach himself? Then why did he get up a petition to drag Mr. Carr out from the multiplicity of his business interests to make him a member of the school board? Was it because Mr. Jones does not like Punta Gorda and wants no man from Punta Gorda to have even the most insignificant office? Was this one of his motives for supporting Mr. Ware against Concanon and Freeman?

Ah, Mr. Jones is a shrewd man; he knows what he is doing and what he is doing it for. If all the offices should be filled with his special friends, then he "can smile at Satan's rage and face a frowning world" and the people can wipe their weeping eyes.

### A DREADFUL FELLOW.

Now it is charged that Gen. Gilchrist is an aristocrat. This is as bad as saying that he is an entomologist or orthopedist, which is perfectly dreadful.

However, what this country needs is more aristocrats. Please read your dictionary. If you can't find it in Webster, see Donnegan's Greek lexicon.

In the United States, every man from cow-boy up to president, is an aristocrat. In England and Europe they have to distinguish them from the rabble by calling them princes, dukes, marquises and the like, but here every man is a prince and needs no special title.

And we are told that Gen. Gilchrist is selfish and won't eat with common people. That is maybe because we have no common people in DeSoto; all of us are quite uncommon. But we have seen the general chopping with an axe and driving sticks in the ground, and last year we saw him eating with his fingers out of the same basket with a turpentine laborer, a newspaper man and another ordinary looking fellow. And he paid for the grub. That was an evidence of his selfishness and aristocracy.

It is a well known fact that Gilchrist eats with publicans and sinners, but he is an aristocrat. He believes that the best men should rule. Isn't that what all of us are voting for in this election? And doesn't that make us all aristocrats? Again read your dictionary.

### VERY UNFAIR.

Possibly the most unfair thing that Editor Isaacs of the Ft. Myers Press ever did was to publish last week an editorial with a glaring headline charging the editor of THE HERALD with being an anarchist upon the utterly unwarranted assumption that the latter advises and encourages the disregard and violation of the fishing laws.

THE HERALD editor has never done any such thing, and Editor Isaacs is bright and intelligent enough to know it, but not fair enough to admit it. THE HERALD upholds the majesty of the law and advises obedience even to laws known to be bad until they are repealed. It has held that the Punta Gorda fishermen have not violated the laws, and for this Editor Isaacs charges its editor with being an anarchist.

This is the only answer that Editor Isaacs makes to the charge that he is advocating lynch law, which he has not even attempted to deny or to refute. If this is the best that he can do by way of argument, we shall beg to be excused from further discussion with him.

But the circuit court is yet to decide whether or not the fishermen have violated the law; and when the decision is rendered, Editor Isaacs will doubtless discover that it will sustain THE HERALD in its contention that the law has not been violated.

### ATTACKING CANDIDATES.

THE HERALD had hoped that the campaign in DeSoto county would be conducted without acrimony, but with the utmost good humor all around. It has tried to set the example by saying nothing offensive about any candidate, and it is therefore prepared to meet cordially, as one true gentleman meets another, those whose election it opposes. Not even our friend, Hon. John L. Jones, can complain that THE HERALD has said anything derogatory to his character as a man and his standing as one of our most prominent citizens. No doubt he himself enjoys our good-natured way of trying to thwart his political plans. Some correspondents of the DeSoto News, however, do not seem to appreciate the wisdom of having a friendly, peaceable competition for the various offices, and accordingly they last week made what might be called vicious attacks upon three of the Punta Gorda candidates, Gen. Gilchrist and Messrs. Freeman and Concanon were severely assailed and Col. Morgan of Fort Ogden was ridiculed.

All of these gentlemen have many friends who naturally resent the attack. It is not necessary to undertake to refute in detail what was said against the four gentlemen, as personal prejudice, if not animosity, was so evident in the printed articles that thinking people will pause before being influenced by them.

Gen. Gilchrist is too well known throughout the county to need any defense; but, if he does need it, he is fully able to take care of himself. Touching the other three, who are candidates for county commissioner from this district, it should be enough to observe that they enjoy the respect and confidence of the communities in which they reside.

Mr. Freeman has twice been elected mayor of this city and Mr. Concanon is a member of the town council. This shows the confidence and esteem in which they are held by their immediate neighbors, who certainly know them better than the anonymous correspondent of the News.

Both are blessed with energy and business capacity and are well qualified to serve the county efficiently as commissioners.

Mr. Concanon's only offense is being the agent of a land company, but the people may rest assured that he is too honorable a man to make any distinctions as commissioner, should be chosen between the property of land companies and that of private citizens. He will treat all alike.

Col. Morgan's candidacy is simply ridiculed, but we predict that his vote will show that his pretensions are not to be laughed at. Should he get on the board, he will prove an excellent commissioner.

Subscribe for THE HERALD.

### IGNORE ALL THREE.

It is indisputable that Messrs. Cleveland, Bryan and Hill are the disturbing elements in the national Democracy. As long as the party listens to their quarrels and pays attention to them, so long will harmony and success be impossible.

And it is certain that these three, as long as they are listened to, will continue to quarrel with each other and keep the party divided.

Common sense, therefore, should suggest that hereafter Messrs. Bryan, Cleveland and Hill be considered as dead and utterly ignored by the party. Any other course means continued division and consequent defeat.

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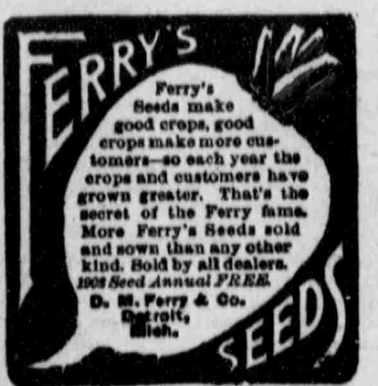
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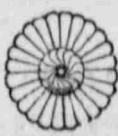
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